

## **Water Use Efficiency 1999 Workplan Summary**

### **Agricultural Issues**

#### **1. Agricultural Incentive Program: develop regional measurable objectives**

The agricultural incentive program will require a basis for evaluating and selecting projects for technical and financial assistance. The Independent Review Panel and Agricultural Water Conservation Potential has identified "regional measurable objectives" as a fundamental tool for developing and evaluating conservation actions. These objectives should be linked to the agricultural incentive program. CALFED will provide input into the 1999 bond language regarding ag incentive programs

A regional strategic plan will be developed for each region and the plans would identify the WUE actions and measurable objectives for that region. The Ag Assurances Focus Group will provide guidance for this process.

Timeframe: Strategic plans and objectives will be developed for several regions by time of draft EIS/R. Strategic plans for all regions will be completed by time of final EIS/R.

#### **2. Definition of "appropriate measurement"**

Consistent with the Babbitt-Dunn discussions in late 1998, a WUE Stage 1 action has been included that will "develop ... legislation that requires appropriate measurement of water use for all water users in California." An important component of this action will be to define "appropriate measurement." During 1999, an approach will be developed for defining "appropriate measurement". Legislation is not expected until Stage 1.

The Ag Assurances Focus Group will help develop this approach.

#### **3. Define Role of Agricultural Water Management Council (AWMC)**

The AWMC represents an important grassroots advance in agricultural water conservation planning and implementation. CALFED can leverage the value of this voluntary program by creating an effective role for the AWMC in the WUE Program. Full effectiveness will requires a flexible working relationship between the AWMC and CALFED and some type of peer review or oversight that will be consistent with CALFED assurances.

The Ag Assurances Focus Group will help determine the most effective role for the AWMC.

#### **4. Review of DWR agricultural water use database**

CALFED's computations of agricultural water conservation potential are based on DWR's

water use database. The Independent Review Panel and Agricultural Water Conservation Potential recommended that CALFED conduct a review of this water use database to provide guidance on research needs and improve stakeholder acceptance of these fundamental computational building blocks.

An independent consultant will be engaged to provide this review.

## **Urban Issues**

### **5. Water conservation plan certification**

The California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) has developed a successful water conservation planning and implementation program that encompasses over 80% of California's population. The California Urban Water Conservation Act requires similar planning and implementation. CALFED requires a certification process to provide a consistent linkage between CALFED assurances and these other programs.

A series of public workshops (geared toward water district managers) will be conducted in February 1999 to provide input to CALFED on the certification issues. These workshops will focus on two similar certification proposals advanced by different urban stakeholder groups.

The certification process will be adopted by CALFED by the time of the draft EIS/R

## **Refuge Issues**

### **6. Complete Interagency Coordinated Program (ICP) Report**

CALFED agencies developed an approach to refuge water management through the draft ICP. CALFED staff will promote review and revision of this document which provides refuge managers with a tool for optimizing water use. Final ICP needed by draft EIS/R

## **Water Recycling Issues**

### **7. Water recycling incentive program**

Stakeholders and CALFED agencies agree that urban water recycling will continue to play an important role in future water conservation efforts. However, long-standing technological and financial barriers must be eliminated through a CALFED incentive program.

The process for developing the recycling incentive program is currently being established.

A draft incentive program will be developed by the time of draft EIS/R